REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 USC 120 to, Serial No. 10/130,285 ("the parent application").

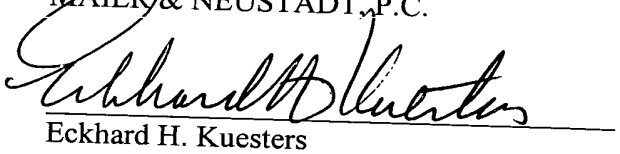
Claims 1-4, 8-17, and 18-19 are pending in the present application, with Claims 13, 15, and 17 amended and Claims 5-7 and 20-33 canceled by the present amendment.

In an Official Action in the parent application dated March 20, 2003, original Claims 1-33 were subject to an election of species. In response to this restriction, Claims 20-24, corresponding to Species V (Figures 30-40), were elected by Applicants and were subsequently allowed in an Official Action dated August 21, 2003. In the present application, pending Claims 1-4, 8-17, and 18-19 correspond to Species I (Figures 1-12), Species III (Figures 16-21), and Species IV (Figures 22-29), respectively. Applicants submit that examining Claims 1-4 and 8-19 will not place an undue burden on the Examiner and, accordingly, request examination on the merits of the pending claims.

In view of the previous comments, the present application is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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